虚構推理 Invented inference

これまでのあらすじ

※今回は(左の)扉ページがアレな感じにつき、マジメな作りになっております。

▼Character この5人の関係性さえ頭に入っていれば、3話からでもすぐわかります!

11歳の時に人魚の肉を食べ、不死になる。さらにもう一匹、妖怪の肉を食べているようで、その結果、怪異にさえ恐れられる存在になってしまっている。

桜川九郎

好き♥

?

幼いころ怪異に攫われ、片眼片足を奪われる〈一眼一足〉になって以来、そのものたちの知恵の神(相談役)になる。病院で出会った九郎に一目惚れした。自称・九郎の今カノ。

岩永琴子

?

まだ未練が…

?

調査

鉄骨を携え、フリルの目立つ赤と黒のミニスカドレスをまとい、頭にリボンをつけ人々を襲っている。過去に変死した元アイドル・七瀬かりんの亡霊だという噂が…?

鋼人七瀬

調査

調査

九郎の元カノ。結婚の約束までしていたが、カッパさえも恐怖に声を震わせて逃げてしまう九朗の異質さを知り、別れることに。就職して警察官となる。

弓原紗季

好意

好みではないが…

34歳、柔道五段の熱練刑事。鋼人七瀬の噂を耳にして、内々に調査を始める。同じ警察署に勤める紗季のことが気になっている。

寺田巡査部長

▼Story さらに、重要シーンの振り返りで、もう1、2話は読んだも同然!

①

普通とは違う存在であることをお互いに認識した琴子と九郎は、怪異の問題を解決するために行動を共にするようになる。

②

それから2年半後、真倉坂市で「鋼人七瀬」の噂が広がり始める。いち早く捜査を始めようとする寺田。九郎との一件以来、怪異の存在に敏感になってしまった紗季は、そのただならぬ異様さを感じ、寺田に警鐘を鳴らす。

③

その帰り道、紗季は鋼人七瀬と遭遇してしまう。不条理な存在を断ち切るために立ち向かう紗季だが、怪異相手に生身で太刀打ちできるはずもなく、ピンチに陥る。そんな危機を救い、鋼人七瀬を撤退させたのは、怪異の相談役である琴子であった。

④

九郎の「元カノ」と「今カノ(?)」。出会ってはいけない二人が、出会ってしまった……。

虚構推理
KYOKOU SUIRI

Invented inference

CHAPTER 3: THE IDOL KILLED BY STEEL GIRDERS

SAKI WEARING KOTOKO'S CLOTHES.
KOTOKO WEARING SAKI'S CLOTHES.
I WONDER HOW THINGS ENDED UP LIKE THIS...?
YEAH, YOU SURE SAID IT...
THE HUGE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO RELEASE VOLUME #1 ON FRIDAY, 10/18!!

AUTHOR: SHIRODAIRA KYO
ARTIST: KATASE-CHASHIBA
ORIGINAL NOVEL CHARACTER DESIGNS: KIYOHARA HIRO

INVENTED INFERENCE

STORY: SHIRODAIRA KYO ART: KATASE CHASIBA

PRESENTED BY:

Café con IRST

RAW
TRANSLATION
PROOFREADING
EDITION

UXORIOUS
TALL IS LOVE
RAITOSILENCE
IRST, DISSIDENT,
REYZYROUT,
SASORI69

VISIT US AT
CAFECONIRST.COM

SUPPORT THE MANGA INDUSTRY
BY ACQUIRING THE OFFICIAL VOLUMES
ONCE THEY BECOME AVAILABLE IN
YOUR REGION/COUNTRY.

S...

SIGH~

2

IWANAGA KOTOKO...

SUCH AMAZINGLY LITTLE SENSE THAT SOMEONE EVEN LIVES HERE.

IN THE END, I BROUGHT HER BACK TO MY PLACE.

KUROU-KUN'S CURRENT GIRLFRIEND, OR SO THIS GIRL SAID.

IT'S ONLY ABOUT AS BIG AS OUR TOILET BACK HOME, ISN'T IT...?

I'M PRESENTLY ENROLLED IN H-UNIVERSITY, THE SAME AS YOU AND KUROU-SENPAI, SAKI-SAN.

I'M 19.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER THAT EITHER, THOUGH.

...AT THE HOSPITAL?

I MET YOU ONCE BEFORE, SAKI-SAN, AT H-U'S AFFILIATED HOSPITAL.

.....

AFTER ALL, IT WAS MORE THAN FOUR YEARS AGO.

?

...SO THANKS A L~OT...

YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER KUROU-KUN...

I'M SURE TAKING ON THE BUSINESS OF FORCING YOUR WAY BETWEEN THEM EACH TIME THAT HAPPENED WAS QUITE THE ORDEAL TOO.

MANY YOUNG LADIES STRUCK UP CONVERSATIONS WITH KUROU-SENPAI. AND ON TOP OF THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT DEFENSELESS MAN, WHO COULD MAKE A SPORT OF SPACING OUT.

SAYING YOU WERE KUROU-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND...

THAT WAS A LIE, RIGHT?

FUFU~!

IT'S THANKS TO BEING DUMPED SO HARSHLY BY EXACTLY THAT *TYPE* OF WOMAN...

...THAT CAUSED HIM TO SWING IN THE COMPLETELY OPPOSITE DIRECTION, I'D SAY.

GRR...

BUT, I MEAN...

YOU'RE ALSO NOT KUROU-KUN'S TYPE.

IT'S BEEN TWO AND A HALF YEARS SINCE HE BROKE UP WITH YOU, SAKI-SAN. IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE FOR ME TO TELL YOU THAT A PERSON WHO'S JUST TURNED 24 THIS YEAR HAS SINCE GOTTEN A NEW GIRLFRIEND.

ドキドキ

IT SEEMS LIKE KUROU-KUN'S COUSIN DIED.

FUHYAAAAAH!!

IF A GIRL LIKE THIS STRUCK IT UP WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS DESPERATE, IT'S POSSIBLE SHE'D BEEN ABLE TO CLING TO HIM SINCE HE WAS TOO TROUBLED TO SAY ANYTHING.

STR~EEEEETCH

ばた

ばり

ドキ

MUAAAAH?!!

VERY WELL THEN, BEHOLD THIS INTIMATE PHOTO OF SENPAI AND ME!

ドキ

YEAH, THAT KIND OF LIE ISN'T GOING TO FLY WITH HIS PREVIOUS GIRLFRIEND HERE, WHO DATED HIM FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.

IT'S JUST BECAUSE SENPAI'S VERY SHY.

ドキドキ

DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE HE HATES IT?

KUROU-KUN COULDN'T LOOK MORE SOUR IN THESE IF HE TRIED, COULD HE?!

HE'S STILL ENROLLED AT THE UNIVERSITY! HE CONTINUED ON TO GRADUATE SCHOOL.

SINCE HE DIDN'T MARRY YOU, SAKI-SAN, HE ALSO DIDN'T HAVE A NEED TO RUSH OUT AND FIND EMPLOYMENT ANYMORE.

...OR SO HE SAID.

AND, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH KUROU-KUN NOW?

THAT WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN OUR PLANS TO GET MARRIED.

HE'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL SINCE WAY BACK.

I'M SURE IT WAS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE THE TIME WE SPENT IN UNIVERSITY TOGETHER STRETCH ON AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

BUT YOU *DIDN'T* GET MARRIED, NOW DID YOU?

ALL BECAUSE *YOU* RAN AWAY FROM KUROU-SENPAI.

YOU

SFX: WH~IIIIIIIISTLE

AH!

I'M SORRY. I WENT TOO FAR.

I COULDN'T *HELP* THAT, COULD I?!

I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED THAT HE WASN'T EVEN HUMAN!

THAT BEING SAID, AS BOTH YOUKAI AND OTHER MONSTERS ARE TERRIFIED OF WHAT HE IS...

...THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN COUNTING HIM AMONG THEIR NUMBERS AS WELL.

NO, YOU'RE PRETTY CLOSE TO THE MARK.

KUROU-SENPAI IS RELATIVELY HUMAN-*LIKE*, BUT HE'S DEFINITELY NOT SOMETHING THAT FITS CLEARLY INTO THE CATEGORY OF 'BEING HUMAN'.

WELL...

I'M SOME-THING SIMILAR MYSELF.

BECAUSE OF THAT, DON'T YOU THINK WE MAKE A GOOD COMBINATION?

TMP

WHAT EXACTLY ARE *YOU?*

WHEN YOU SAY "SOMETH NG SIMILAR"...

CLATTER

YOUKAI, AYAKASHI, GHOSTS, DEMONS...

...I SERVE AS THE GOD OF WISDOM TO THE BEINGS REFERRED BY THESE NAMES.

PLEASE THINK OF ME AS "THE MIKO OF THOSE BEINGS, WHO ARBITRATES AND RESOLVES THEIR TROUBLES".

MIKOS MUSTN'T BE DEFLOWERED, NOW MUSTN'T THEY?

……

KUROU-KUN IS *NOT* THAT AGGRESSIVE.

BUT THAT WAS...

...KUROU-SENPAI TOOK ME BY *FORCE* AND--

ズズー

はぁ

HAVE THE POLICE ALREADY STARTED AN INVESTIGATION?

MORE IMPORTANTLY THAN ALL THAT, THE PROBLEM FACING US IS "KOUJIN NANASE".

ITADAKIMASU FOR THE TEA.

DON'T MIND IF I DO.

IF HE WERE CAPABLE OF FORCING HIMSELF ON SOMEONE LIKE THAT THEN I'M SURE TALKING TO HIM ABOUT BREAKING UP WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN SO COMPLICATED...

SIGH...

I'M SURE TERADA-SAN COULD WASH HIS HANDS OF IT TOO.

IF SHE CAME TO SOMEHOW DO SOMETHING ABOUT KOUJIN NANASE, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD LET THAT PASS.

SHE CALLS HERSELF A SPECIALIST IN NEGOTIATING WITH MONSTERS, DOESN'T SHE...?

THIS GIRL CAME TO MAKURAZAKA CITY WITH KOUJIN NANASE AS HER GOAL.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE GUY IN QUESTION DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT KOUJIN NANASE'S AN AUTHENTIC GHOST, SO IT'S POSSIBLE HE'LL EXPAND THE INVESTIGATION IF WE LEAVE HIM TO HIS OWN DEVICES.

EVEN THOUGH ONLY ONE DETECTIVE'S REALIZED SOMETHING ABNORMAL'S GOING ON IN THE CITY, HE'S ALREADY STARTED LOOKING INTO IT.

IT'S NOT REALLY INFO I NEED TO HIDE FROM HER...

NONE YET, "OFFICIALLY".

HOWEVER, THAT'S PROBABLY JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

WHAT ABOUT THINGS LIKE DAMAGES REPORTS?

THAT KOUJIN NANASE WE SAW JUST NOW WAS MORE BRUTAL THAN N THE RUMORS.

IF IT KEEPS ON GOING LIKE THAT, IT LOOKS LIKE A MURDER'S BOUND TO HAPPEN.

WE NEED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES.

R GHT.

THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.

I'M SURE THOSE TYPES OF TH NGS ARE USUALLY NTERPRETED AS ACCIDENTS OR COINC DENCES.

THEY'D BE WRITTEN OFF AS THE NDIVIDUALS N QUESTION BE NG CONFUSED OR DELUSIONAL.

...OR WHERE YOUKAI HAVE INFL CTED HARM ON PEOPLE?

SOMETH NG LIKE CAR ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY GHOSTS...

ALTHOUGH, WHETHER OR NOT SHE'S A YOUKAI OR AN URBAN LEGEND...

...ARE THERE ANY INSTANCES OF CASES THAT OCCURRED WHERE TH NGS WENT FAR ENOUGH FOR THE POLICE TO GET INVOLVED?

SIGN: WARNING! TAKE CAUTION WHEN WALKING BESIDE THE WATER!

THAT DROWNED CORPSE THAT SEEMED TO BE TIED TO WHEN WE ENCOUNTERED THE KAPPA, THAT WAS ALSO BRUSHED AWAY AS AN ACCIDENT AND BURIED AWAY BENEATH EVERYDAY LIFE.

SINCE THE EXISTENCE OF CURSES AND ABERRATIONS ARE SO VAGUE, I'D LIKE TO MAKE THINGS CLEAR HERE.

BECAUSE THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON THEY'RE WRAPPED IN MYSTERY, CREEPY, AND FEARED.

THIS ISN'T

...A CASE WHERE THE CULPRIT IS SOMETHING UNEXPLAINABLE OR SUPERNATURAL LIKE THAT.

EVEN IF I'D TOLD THEM BACK THEN THAT IT WAS THE DOING OF A KAPPA, THE POLICE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ACTION WITHOUT CAUSE OR ANYTHING RESEMBLING POSITIVE PROOF.

NOW THAT'S A GOOD POINT OF VIEW

I'VE TAKEN ACTION TO DISCERN THE FAR MORE HUMANE AND RESERVED FACETS OF PROPER MONSTERS.

ISN'T IT A GOOD THING THAT SHE'S SUCH A STRONG EVIL SPIRIT WITH THAT KIND OF SELF-ASSERTION?

HOWEVER, KOUJIN NANASE WAS DIFFERENT.

DESPITE HOW MANY KILOMETERS SEPARATED THEM FROM WHERE I LIVED, THEY WENT OUT OF THE R WAY TO COME IMPLORE ME TO DO SOMETH NG ABOUT IT.

MY; HOW TROUBLE-SOME...

THAT THING, HOW-EVER, IS *NOT* PROPER.

THAT'S WHY THE HIGHLY RESPECTABLE GHOSTS AND MONSTERS WHO'VE LONG LIVED IN THIS REGION HAVE HAD THEIR LIVES SO THREATENED AND THROWN INTO CONFUSION BY THAT THING'S ARRIVAL.

IF NOT FOR THAT, I'D HAVE NEVER COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO THIS BACKWARDS CITY IN THE STICKS.

GRRP!

SIGH~

NEITHER ITS EXIS-TENCE, NOR ITS POWER.

THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT KOUJIN NANASE ISN'T A "PROPER" MONSTER!

COULDN'T THE MONSTERS DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE MONSTERS' OWN PROBLEMS ON THE R OWN?

ALSO, WHY ISN'T KUROU-KUN HERE WITH YOU?

YOU'RE SAYING WE'RE IN THE BOONIES...

OUR UNIVERSITY'S IN A PROVINCIAL TOWN TOO, ISN'T IT?

PLUS, HE'S *NOT* THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D JUST LEAVE HIS KOUHAI ON HER OWN IF SHE WERE GOING OFF TO EXTERMINATE MONSTERS, RIGHT?

IT SEEMS LIKE WE'D BE ABLE TO RELY ON THE FACT THAT YOUKAI ARE AFRAID OF HIM IF HE WERE HERE...

KUROU-KUN, WELL, YES, THAT'S RIGHT...

HE CONTRACTED AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

AND OF COURSE, IT WAS REALLY QUITE THE ORDEAL

KNOWING *YOUR* PERSONALITY, YOU'D INVITE HIM ALONG ON THE PRETENSE OF 'FEELING LIKE GOING ON A TRIP TOGETHER', WOULDN'T YOU.

YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE,"WHILE I'M AT IT, LET'S GO SIGHTSEEING".

...I HAD INTENDED FINISHING THIS TO BE A DAY TRIP, SO I DIDN'T REALLY THINK I NEEDED TO INVITE HIM.

AND WHY WON'T YOU MEET ME EYES WHEN YOU SAY THAT?

...THE THING IS, KUROU-SENPAI...

YOU STILL HAVE SOME LEFT, DON'T YOU?

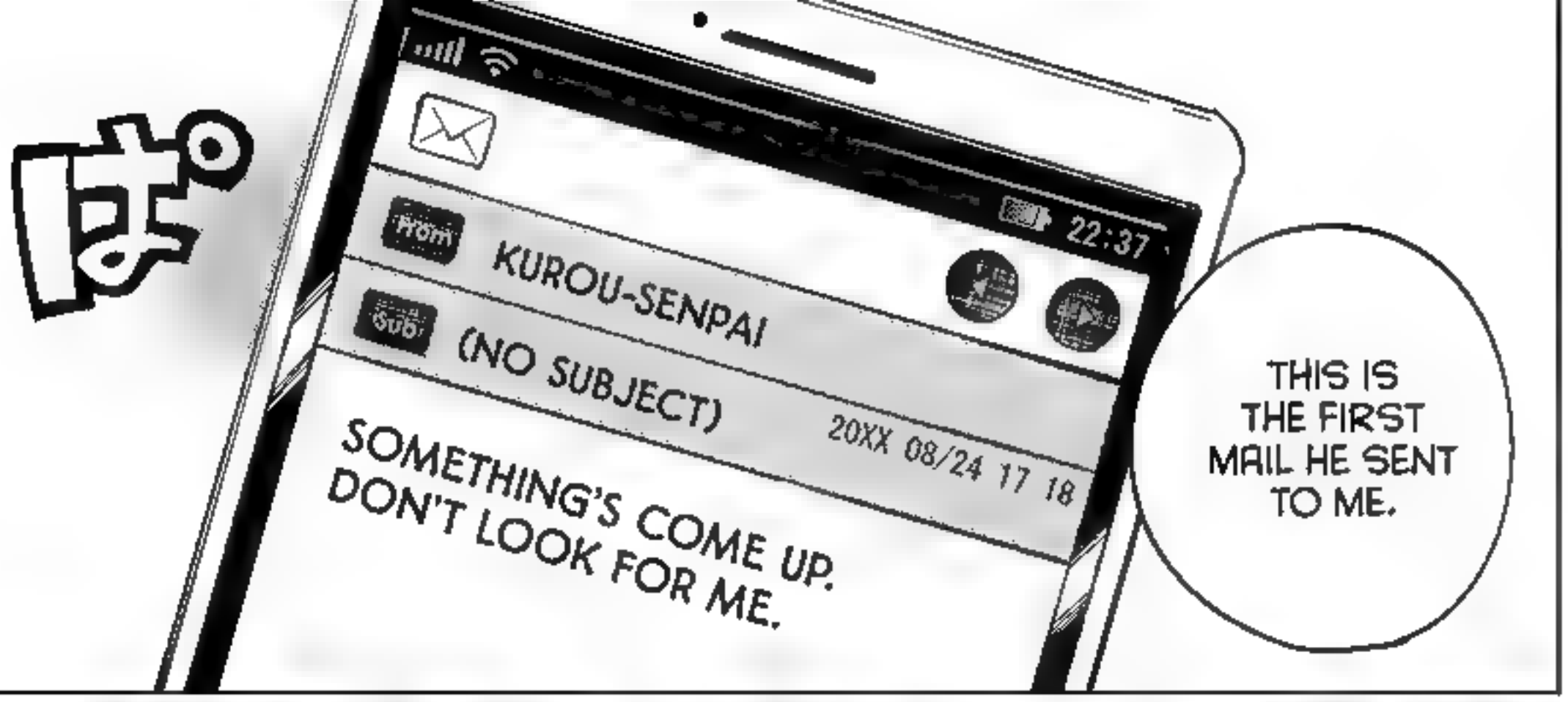
DON'T DODGE THE QUESTION.

ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE PLEASE!

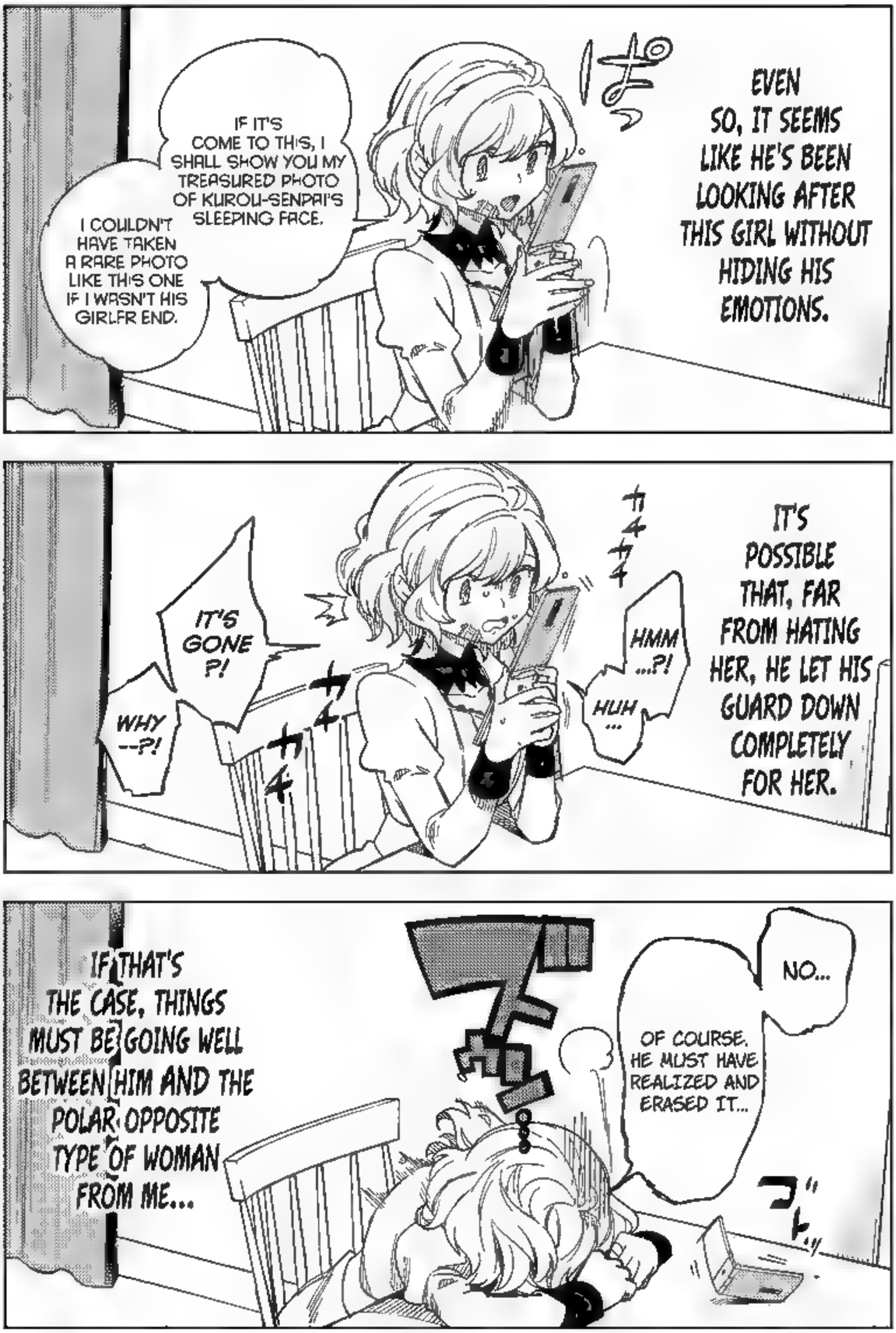
AND...

THERE ISN'T EVEN A RESPONSE FROM H S ANSWERING SERVICE.

...EVER SINCE LAST WEEK, HE WENT OFF SOMEWHERE WITHOUT TELL NG ME, AND I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM H M S NCE THEN.



...FOR BETTER OR WORSE, KUROU-KUN WAS GENTLE, AND WASN'T THE SORT OF PERSON WHO'D EVER HATE OR BE SO COLD TO SOMEONE.


I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN A RARE PHOTO LIKE THIS ONE IF I WASN'T HIS GIRLFR END.
IF IT'S COME TO THIS, I SHALL SHOW YOU MY TREASURED PHOTO OF KUROU-SENPAI'S SLEEPING FACE.
EVEN SO, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S BEEN LOOKING AFTER THIS GIRL WITHOUT HIDING HIS EMOTIONS.
WHY --P!
IT'S GONE P!
HUH ...
HMM ...P!
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT, FAR FROM HATING HER, HE LET HIS GUARD DOWN COMPLETELY FOR HER.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THINGS MUST BE GOING WELL BETWEEN HIM AND THE POLAR OPPOSITE TYPE OF WOMAN FROM ME...
OF COURSE. HE MUST HAVE REALIZED AND ERASED IT...
NO...

健康相談
受付
7
内科

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I ASKED THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU, THEY ALWAYS SAID YOU LOOKED LIKE A BIG SISTER WITH HER LITTLE BROTHER...

ALTHOUGH THE IMPRESSION I COULDN'T HELP GET FROM WATCHING YOUR RELATIONSHIP INVOLVED YOU KIND OF CLINGING AND FAWNING OVER HIM.

OH, REALLY?

じ…

AND I DIDN'T NEED TO BEHAVE LIKE A SPOILED CHILD JUST TO HAVE KUROL-KUN ACTUALLY *CONTACT* ME. AND NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE NEVER ONCE WENT WITHOUT RESPONDING TO MY CALLS.

I DON'T REALLY NEED TO CLING TO HIM EVERY SECOND JUST TO SEE SOMETHING USUAL, LIKE HIS SLEEPING FACE.

YES, I SUPPOSE SO. AND THAT WAS THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP TYPE.

UGUUUU UUUU——!

...A MAN WHO WOULD COME TO MY SIDE WHENEVER I WANTED HIM CLOSE TO ME...

HE WAS, YES...

MRK.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO DAMN SUSPICIOUS THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT KUROU-KUN, NOW AREN'T I?!

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN HIS GIRLFRIEND FROM A WHILE AGO AND HE'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SO YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE WORRIED ABOUT HIM!

LEAVING HIM WITH HIS HEART BROKEN OVER SOMETHING LIKE A KAPPA, EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF MEMORIES ARE YOU BASKING IN?!

...HOWEVER ...HIM DOING SOMETHING LIKE NOT CONTACTING YOU OR FORWARDING ANY MESSAGES FOR A WHOLE WEEK *IS* STRANGE AFTER ALL.

IT'S NOT AS IF HE WANTED TO TRY DISAPPEARING OR SOMETHING.

--RIGHT...

IT *ISN'T* SOMETHING THAT CONCERNS ME ANY MORE!

INDEED, WELL...

I WOULDN'T EXACTLY SAY I HAD NO IDEAS WHATSOEVER...

UNLESS IT WAS TO A RIDICULOUS EXTEND, HE'D LITERALLY COME BACK TO LIFE!

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IT'S VERY POSSIBLE THE ONES WHO 'KILLED' HIM MIGHT SUFFER THROUGH SOMETHING QUITE UNAMUSING.

HE'S A MAN WHO WOULDN'T DIE EVEN IF YOU KILLED HIM.

SO SHE KNOWS ABOUT KUROU-KUN'S UNIQUE PHYSICAL CONSTITUTION TOO...?

...THAT'S TRUE.

I'M SURE THAT THIS GIRL TRULY LOVES KUROU-KUN.

I SHOULDN'T MEDDLE IN ANY-THING REGARDING KUROU-KUN ANYMORE.

I'VE GOT MY WORK, TOO...

YES, AND THE KOUJIN NANASE CASE IS *NOT* THE WORK OF THE POLICE FORCE.

ACCORD-ING TO WHAT I KNOW, SHE'S APPROACHING HIM DESPITE KNOWING HIS CIRCUM-STANCES.

SHE'S ACCOMPLISHED WHAT I WASN'T ABLE TO.

EVEN IF YOU PROACTIVELY INVOLVE YOURSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF THOSE WHO AREN'T HUMAN, IT CAN'T BE A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE.

ほぇ…

THIS IS ALSO SOMETHING YOU SHOULDN'T MEDDLE IN, ISN'T IT, SAK-SAN?

BECAUSE IT MOST LIKELY ISN'T DONE GROWING AS BRUTAL AS IT CAN BE.

RUN AS IF THE ONE CHASING WILL FOLLOW YOU TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD IN ORDER TO KILL YOU.

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, I WANT TO SETTLE THIS QUICKLY, BUT...

...EVEN *IF* YOU'RE CONFRONTED BY KOUJIN NANASE, PLEASE RUN AWAY THIS TIME WITHOUT HESITATION.

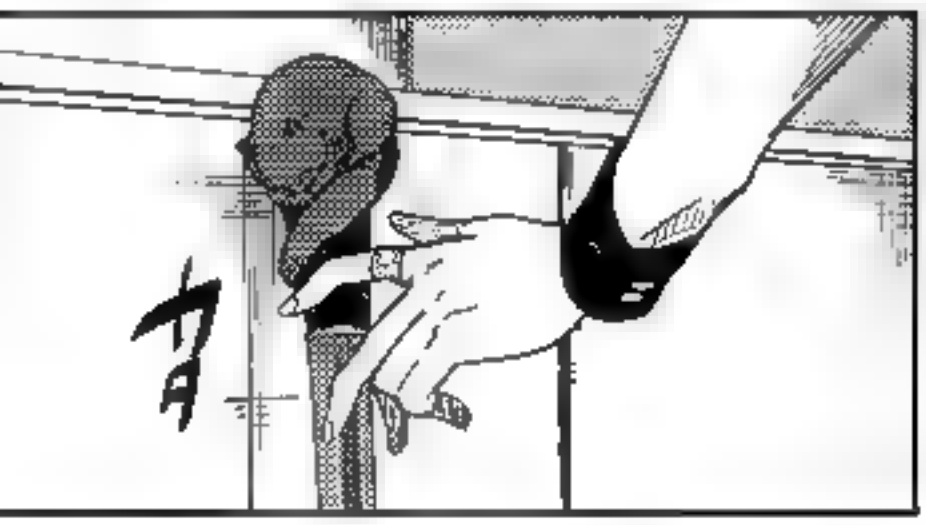
MY.

SO YOU NOTICED?

RIGHT BACK AT YOU. CAN YOU REALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MONSTER WITH YOUR BODY THE WAY IT IS?

IT'S NOT JUST YOUR LEFT LEG, YOUR RIGHT EYE IS A PROSTHETIC AS WELL, ISN'T IT?

.....?



ONE-EYED AND ONE-LEGGED.
THIS IS THE REASON THAT WHAT I AM APPROACHES THE REALM OF THE GODS AND THE AYAKASHI.
AND IT'S BECAUSE 'M LIKE THIS THAT I'LL BE FINE.

AH-!

WELL THEN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE COFFEE.

I DON'T NEED ONE!

IF YOU'D LIKE, I'D BE HAPPY TO SEND YOU A WRITTEN INVITATION TO ME AND KUROO-SENPAI'S WEDDING WHEN THE TIME COMES, AND--

PHEW.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT. MEETING SAKI-SAN LIKE THAT WAS *NOT* IN MY CALCULA-TIONS...

OH WELL.

I'M SURE I WON'T RUN INTO HER AGAIN.

TL NOTE: FOR MORE INFO REGARDING THIS YOUKAI, VISIT: EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/GASHADOKURO

NEXT

RATTLE RATTLE

SLICH A WONDERFUL VIEW, ISN'T IT?

I'VE GOT NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT HOW IT FEELS TO RIDE YOU, BUT...

AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S LIKELY THAT THING CAN'T BE TAKEN DOWN WITH BRUTE FORCE...

I'VE GOT TO THINK UP SOME COUNTER-MEASURES.

EH?

"I'LL BACK YOU UP MYSELF NEXT TIME"?

WHAT EXACTLY CAN YOU DO WITH THIS BRITTLE BODY OF YOURS?

KOUJIN NANASE IS A MONSTER.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING A POLICE OFFICER CAN 'CATCH'.

---HOWEVER, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO RUN AWAY.

WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING AFTERWARD, ANYONE MIGHT BE NERVOUS.

I WONDER WHY MY FATE IS LINKED TO BIZARRE THINGS LIKE THAT...?

EVEN IF I CAN'T CATCH IT, KNOWING HOW STRANGE IT IS I OUGHT TO RESPOND TO IT SOMEHOW.

LET'S START BY COLLECTING SOME ACCURATE DATA ON NANASE KARIN BACK WHEN SHE WAS STILL AMONG THE LIVING.

NANASE KAR

NEWS | ECONOMY | WEATHER | MISC

- SPECIAL REPORT ON WAVEY-PERMED GIRLS
- AUTUMN TRENDS, OJOU-SAMA STYLE
- FLUFFY, ROLLED-UP PERMED HAIRSTYLES

AND ALSO, THAT GIRL...

...GOT ON MY NERVES!

- SPECIAL REPORT ON W

.....

SOFT-SERVE ICE CREAM IS DELICIOUS.

☆ TINY GIRLS, BANZA~AAAI!

BRIGHT COLORS AND FLUFFY PERMS ARE CUTE!

A FLUTTERING SKIRT IS PERFECT FOR A DATE! ALL MEN LOVE SKIRTS, AND-

NANASE...
KARIN...

NANASE KARIN

RIGHT,
NANSASE
KARIN.

WAIT,
NOT
THAT!

AN IDOL WHOSE REAL NAME WAS "NANASE HARUKO", SHE WASN'T EVEN THAT FAMOUS.

NANASE KARIN.

HER "POPULARITY" PROBABLY ONLY INCREASED DUE TO THE MANNER IN WHICH SHE DIED.

AS OF YET, THERE ARE STILL A TON OF THINGS PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER.

THOSE BREASTS WILL SELL!

M...MISTER PRES DENT, JUST LIKE THAT?!

AND IF THEY DON'T, WE'LL WORK WITH THAT UNTIL THAT DO, EH-?!

IT TURNS OUT, SHE WAS PERSONALLY SCOUTED BY HER PRODUCTION COMPANY'S PRESIDENT.

SHE DEBUTED AT 17 YEARS OLD, IN JUNE.

OHH HHH!

THAT SPUNK'LL SELL EVEN MORE!

...YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A DISCERNING EYE.

SAYING THAT THE ONLY THING THAT'LL SELL ABOUT ME IS MY CHEST...

YOU SEE THIS GRAVURE IDOL A *LOT* RECENTLY.

I MEAN, SHE'S CUTE AND ALL, BUUUT, SHE ACTUALLY LOOKS REALLY SMART, I GUESS?

YEAH, SHE LOOKS CALCULATING, THAT'S IT.

ESPEC ALLY THAT GLINT N HER EYES.

NANASE KARIN... IS IT?

HER TITS ARE AMAZING...

YEAH~~? SHE'S GOT A CUTE FACE, BUT HER PERSONALITY LOOKS TERR BLE~

SEEMS LIKE SHE ACTUALLY *IS* INTELLIGENT. IT SAYS SHE WAS ABLE TO PASS THE QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED TO STUDY AT A CERTAIN COUNTRY'S PRIVATE UNIVERSITY WHILE BALANCING HER ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITY AT THE SAME TIME.

NANASE KARIN WASN'T POPULAR AT ALL, AT FIRST.

BUT NACCHIN'S GOT *NO* TITS!

I'M GONNA STAY DEVOTED TO NACCHIN AFTER ALL.

CON-GRATS!

ISN'T THAT AMAZ-ING?!

GET THIS! IT'S AS A *REGULAR* ON A LATE-NIGHT SERIALIZED TV DRAMA!

I SNAGGED A NEW JOB FOR YOU!

HOWEVER, A YEAR AFTER HER DEBUT, SHE SEIZED HER CHANCE.

OF COURSE.

THIS IS A *RARE* CHANCE.

IF YOU WANT TO CAPITALIZE ON TH S, I'LL CONNECT YOU WITH THEM AFTER THIS.

THE ROLE IS...

..."NANASE KAR N, A GRAVURE IDOL WHO ISN'T SELL NG"?

LATE-NIGHT SERIALIZED DRAMA:

青春！火車！

STRINGTIME OF LIFE!

THE FIRE-BREATHING WOMAN!

企画書

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF LOOKING FOR A COMPOSER, SO WE HAVEN'T DECIDED ON THE PART CLLARS, BUT...

ALSO, IN THE FILLER BETWEEN SEGMENTS THERE'S A SCENE WHERE NANASE KARIN SINGS A KINDA JOKEY SONG.

IF WE USE YOUR NAME LIKE THAT, I'M SURE IT'LL GET PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IT ALL THE MORE.

IT ALSO FITS YOUR IMAGE TO A TEE.

.....

...LET ME BE THE SONGWRITER MYSELF. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL...

I REALLY DO LOVE IT!

IT'S STRANGE HOW IT JUST STICKS IN YOUR HEAD~! IT'S JUST PERFECT, ISN'T IT?

IT'S TURNED INTO A SONG JUST LIKE "NANASE KARIN HERSELF" WOULD MAKE IT.

OHHHH.

THE SONG'S ACTUALLY GOT GOOD TEMPO AND ARRANGEMENT, DOESN'T IT?

DIRECTOR~!♡

LET'S USE IT AS THE OPENING!

YEAH, I LIKE IT!

OH!

THE BROADCAST'S STARTED?

LET'S PERFECTLY COMBUST ☆-!

青春!

火歌

女!

TITLE: SPRINGTIME OF LIFE! THE FIRE-BREATHING WOMAN

HER PERFORMANCE IS GREAT TOO.

TURN YOUR OIL FIELDS INTO ARABLE L-AND-

♪ PLEASE GRANT MY WISH, MR. OIL MAGNATE-

NICE.

THAT'S GIRL'S CUTE AFTER ALL.

AND LET'S TORCH IT COMPLETELY WITH A FLAMETHROWER ☆~!

SCORCH ~

♪ SCORCH ~~

ぼぉん

-IT TO ASHES-!!

-IT TO ASHES-

提供

日本ガスバーナー協会

LAST PANEL: BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
THE JAPANESE GASBURNER CORPORATION

KYAA AAAA AHHH —!!!!

BOING BOING BOING

G~ EEHYA YAHYA! IOW ...OU!

...ON- ...LING ...RAVURE ID- ...OOOO- ...OOOL ...JASE ...IN!

SHU- UUUUUP -L- READY WH... YOUR TITTY BOUNCING SOUND EFFECTS!

I'M GONNA ENRICH MY SUPER-FATTENING TONKOTSU SOUP BY HAVING IT ABSORB THE BLUBBER IN YOUR BREASTS!

UGHH...IT'S NO GOOD...MY BREASTS ARE TOO HEAVY...I CAN'T MOVE...

THE WASH-BOARD GIRL!

NEVER GIVE UP, NANASE KARIN.

TH...

THAT VOICE IS...

YOU MUSTN'T BECOME SOMETHING LIKE TON-KOTSU SOUP.

I'M SORRY I TOLD YOU THAT THE WEIGHT OF YOUR CHEST WAS DRAGGING YOU DOWN.

BEHOLD THIS NEW FLAMETHROWER. ACCEPT IT!

THANK YOU, WASH-BOARD GIRL. NO ONE IS MORE FLAT-CHESTED THAN YOU ...!

SOB

I'LL DEFINITELY TAKE REVENGE FOR YOU!!!

I'M GOING TO MAKE ROAST PORK OUT OF YOU!!

SQU EAA ?!

YOU BITCH, WHEN DID YOU GET THAT FLAME-THROWER --?!

BLAZE ON! GOD-F~!!!!!!!! !!!!RE-!

SQU EEA AAA -!!

-TO BE CONTINUED-

TEXT: NEXT EPISODE PREVIEW

次回予告

"I MIGHT HAVE SPREAD A RUMOR THAT YOUR BREASTS WERE FILLED WITH A MENSTRUAL SALINE SOLUTION, BUT..."
"...WE'LL ALWAYS, ALWAYS BE FRIENDS-!"
NEXT EPISODE!
KARIN, WHO ESCAPED HER PREDICAMENT, HAS THE TRUE MASTERMIND REVEAL HER-SELF BEFORE HER?!

EVEN THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE POPULARITY OF THE DRAMA WAS DUE TO YOU, KARIN! HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PLEASED!

HE SAID YOU GAVE HIM A GREAT PERFORMANCE.

M~AAAAN! THE FIRST PART WAS AMAZINGLY POPULAR! "SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH! THE FIRE-BREATHING WOMAN!"

~BOING!

ALL THANKS TO ME BEING WILLING TO PUT MY CHEST ON DISPLAY, I'M SURE.

HMH~ MMMM

AHAHA, THAT COSTUME PACKS QUITE AN IMPACT AS WELL.

THE DIRECTOR DIDN'T THINK SO EITHER. I'M SURE THAT'S WHY HE JUST LEFT THE RIGHTS TO THE SONG WITH YOU, BUT...

BUT STILL...

NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE OST CD WOULD SELL *THIS* WELL.

CD: [MY FLAMETHROWER AND ME] [SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH! THE FIREBREATHING WOMAN! THEME SONG - NANASE KARIN]

fufu-!

THE ONE TO SAY THE NEXT BIG SCORE'S COME ALONG WILL BE YOU, MISTER MANAGER!

YOU'RE GETTING AN UNTHINKABLE AMOUNT OF ROYALTIES FOR A ROOKIE GRAVURE IDOL.

I WONDER IF THIS WAS ALL ACCORDING TO YOUR PLANS?

BOTH THE SPEED OF HER THINKING AND HER GIFT OF CHARISMATIC CONVERSATION WERE HIGHLY EVALUATED.

SHE ALSO PASSED THE ENTRANCE EXAMS TO A FAMOUS PRIVATE UNIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY ON HER FIRST SHOT. THIS ALSO BECAME A HOT TOPIC OF CONVERSATION ...RIGHT?

AND SO NANASE KARIN'S APPEARANCES ON TV AND ON THE RADIO INCREASED.

AND ON TOP OF THAT, IF YOU COMPARE HOW SHE SUDDENLY BROKE OUT AND MADE IT ON HER OWN TO OTHER, SIMILAR ROOKIE IDOLS, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE EARNED HER FAIR SHARE OF JEALOUSY TOO.

SIGH~

JUST FROM LOOKING AT THE PATH SHE'D TAKEN, YOU'D THINK SHE WAS A SUCCESSFUL WOMAN. BUT EVEN STILL, SHE WAS STILL RELEGATED TO JUST BEING ONE SMALL, ALBEIT POPULAR IDOL IN A HUGE FIELD.

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, SHE WAS BEING FOLLOWED BY THE MEDIA AND COME HERE TO MAKURA-ZAKA...

...I WONDER WHAT THE PARTICULARS OF NANASE KARIN'S DEATH EVEN WERE?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, CONCERNING THE ORIGIN OF HOW KOUJIN NANASE WAS 'BORN'...

TEXT: KOUJIN NANASE GATHERING SITE

鋼人七瀬まとめサイト

"THE KOUJIN NANASE GATHERING SITE". SOMEONE WAS ABLE TO MAKE ALL TH S?

SO IT'S A COLLECTION OF LINKS TO FORUMS, BLOGS, AND OTHER SITES RELATED TO KOUJIN NANASE?

THE INCIDENT OF
HER FATHER'S DEATH

NANASE K S SUSPECTED O

EH?

THIS S TE TSELF PROVIDES A MESSAGE BOARD WHERE YOU CAN POST D SCUSSION AND CONVERSA-TION...

鋼人七
掲示板
リンク集

THE INCIDENT OF
HER FATHER'S DEATH

UWA AAAA AGH -!!!

ズ"

ズ"

THE NEXT DAY SETTLING INTO THE NEWS

DID I KEEP YOU WAITING?

NO.

SO IT'S KARAAGE TODAY, HUH...?

ARE YOU ALRIGHT WHEN I COMES TO CHICKEN MEAT?

YES.

I'VE GOT NO BAD TIES TO ANY BIRD YOUKAI.

AH, IT'S FINE.

WITH YOU COOPERATING WITH ME AN' ALL, YUMIHARA, IT'S PRETTY REASSURING.

I'LL DELIVER THOSE MATERIALS YOU ASKED FOR THIS EVENING.

SORRY TO BE TAKING UP YOUR TIME.

YESTER-DAY?

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, YESTER-DAY WE GOT ***ANOTHER*** REPORT FROM SOME-ONE WHO SAID THEY'D BEEN ASSAULTED BY KOUJIN NANASE.

HE CAME BARRELING INTO THE BOX IN A FRENZY, PALE AS A GHOST.

AT A POLICE BOX IN WEST MAKURAZAKA, AFTER 1 AM. A MIDDLE-AGED GUY WHO'D BEEN DRINKING.

HE SAID THAT A WEIRD WOMAN WIELDING A STEEL BEAM HAD APPROACHED AND ATTACKED H M.

HE WASN'T DEAD DRUNK THOUGH, AND HE COULD WALK STEADILY ENOUGH. SO IT SEEMS THEY GOT WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER THAT WAS THE BEST IDEA.

HOWEVER, WHEN WE WENT TO THE LOCATION HE TOLD US ABOUT THERE WAS NO WOMAN LIKE THAT, AND OF COURSE HE WAS DRUNK. SO, THEY TOLD ME THEY'D SENT HIM HOME.

SO THEY PASSED THE INFO ON TO ME.

交番

BOTH THE T MES AND LOCA-TIONS OF THE ATTACKS ARE SPREAD ALL OVER THE PLACE.

EARLIER I REVIEWED BLOGS AND MESSAGE BOARDS ON THE NET. THE INTENTIONS BEHIND IT ARE UNKNOWN, BLT THE STORY OF THE GUY LAST N GHT BEING ASSAULTED MAKES THE FOURTH INCIDENT THAT'S SHOWN UP.

IF ALL OF THEM REALLY HAPPENED, IT'S COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A SINGLE PERSON ALONE PLAYING THE PART OF KOUJIN NANASE TO COVER THE ENTIRE AREA.

THE DISPARATE PLACES WHERE KOUJIN NANASE APPEAR AND DIS-APPEAR ARE LITERALLY COMPLETELY RANDOM AND AT WILL, ARE THEY?

THE PLACE WHERE KOUJIN NANASE ATTACKED ME LAST NIGHT IS 20 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM WEST MAKURAZAKA.

AND IF 'SHE' COLLDN'T DO IT ALONE, THEN THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS BEING AN ORGANIZED CRIME KEEPS BECOMING MORE LIKELY EVERY SECOND.

WITH THE NUMBER OF EYE-WITNESS TESTIMONIES INCREASING, WE COULD MAKE A KOUJIN NANASE RELATED "GATHERING SITE" ON THE NET TO CORRELATE THEM VIA BBS.

A "KOUJIN NANASE INFO GATHERING SITE"...

PHEW

IF WE HAVE SOMEONE ON OUR SIDE SORTING THE NTEL, IT'LL BE CONVENIENT.

IF WE COULD AT LEAST GET THAT UP AND RUNNING, WE CAN SHORE UP THE CASE FOR 'KOUJIN NANASE' EXISTING WITH SOMETHING WE CAN ACTUALLY CALL EVIDENCE.

...IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE UNCERTAIN INFO WOULD SOONER DEEPEN THE CONFUSION AND DISORDER HERE.

鋼人七瀬まとめサイト

ALTHOUGH THAT SITE'S SPACE DOES SEEM TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM FOR COLLATING INFO...

THAT'S A REAL POSSIBILITY.

I'M SURE IT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF DEVELOPMENT THE GUYS PLOTTING WHATEVER THIS IS WERE HOPING FOR.

SPENDING OUR TIME MAKING THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS CLEAR OR NOT, IT'S NOT A GOOD SIGN.

HM?

THAT TOPIC AGA N?

I'VE BEEN LOOK NG OVER HER PERSONAL HISTORY, AND...

...IF ANY- ONE WERE TO TLRN INTO ONE AND SHOW LP, I THOUGHT SHE'D BE THE PRIME CANDIDATE...

HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE POSSIB LITY OF KOUJIN NANASE BEING AN ACTUAL GHOST?

TERADA-SAN.

AN IDOL NAMED NANASE KARIN.

SHE WASN'T KNOWN AT ALL UNTIL CLOSE TO HER DEATH, BUT I ALSO BRIEFLY LOOKED INTO HER. SHE DEFINITELY WASN'T JUST SOME IDIOTIC LITTLE GIRL WHO DIDN'T THINK THINGS THROUGH.

IF A GIRL LIKE THAT DIED HALFWAY TO THAT GOAL, I'D HAVE TO AGREE THAT SOME BAD FEELINGS WOULD REMAIN BEHIND.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, I FEEL LIKE SHE HAD WHAT I'D CALL A GREEDY DRIVE ALL ON HER OWN TO CLAW HERSELF ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.

TESTS CONDUCTED COULDN'T ACCURATELY DETERMINE AT WHAT TIME IT HAD OCCURRED.

HE TUMBLED DOWN THE STAIRWELL AT THE APARTMENTS HE CALLED HOME AND HIT HIS HEAD, IN WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

IN THE JUNE OF THE 19 YEAR OLD NANASE KARIN'S RISE AS AN IDOL...

...HER FATHER DIED.

I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST FOR MY LATE FATHER.

SHE WAS IN THE FIRST NEWS COVERAGE, BUT SHE ONLY GAVE ORDINARY COMMENTS.

AND THEN SHE WENT BACK TO HER TV APPEARANCES AS USUAL.

ABRUPTLY, IT SEEMS DOUBTS BEGAN TO BE DISCUSSED ABOUT THE DEATH.

BY THE WAY, THAT SAME YEAR, AT THE END OF NOVEMBER...

AFTER HIS DAUGHTER HAD SUCCESSFULLY BECOME AN IDOL...

...AND HE TRIED TO LIVE OFF SAID DAUGHTER, NANASE KARIN HAD ONLY UNPLEASANT FEELINGS TOWARDS HER UNEMPLOYED FATHER.

FURTHERMORE, IT WAS POSSIBLE SHE HAD BEEN AIMING FOR THE LIFE INSURANCE PAYOUT.

THEY SAID THAT SHE'D MADE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT, AND KILLED HIM.

HARUKO DESPISES ME.

SHE'S ALWAYS BOASTED TO ME ABOUT HOW SMART SHE IS SINCE WAY BACK...

ABOUT ONE MONTH BEFORE HIS DEATH, HER FATHER HAD VENTING SOME GRIPES TO HIS FRIEND.

A NOTE IN HER FATHER'S OWN HANDWRITING WAS FOUND FIVE MONTHS AFTER HIS 'ACCIDENTAL' DEATH, IN WHICH HE SPOKE ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER'S DESIRE TO KILL HIM.

I can feel Haruko's urge to kill me.
By the time you're reading this note, there's no doubt I've been killed by Haruko. No doubt at all.

DISCUSSION SPREAD ACROSS THE NET.

AFTERWARDS, HOPING TO FOLLOW THE STORY, IT WAS PICKED UP BY WEEKLY MAGAZINES AND SPORTS PAPERS.

SEEMS THE REASON IS THAT THE R MOTHER DIED A FEW DAYS AFTER SHE WAS BORN.

IT SEEMS LIKE NANASE KARIN HAS AN OLDER SISTER, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOME ISSUES BETWEEN THEM!

HOW DARE THEY WRITE SUCH FOOLISH ARTICLES!

THE RUMORS ALL GOT FURTHER EMBELLISHED AND THEN JUST KEPT SPREADING.

I'LL SUE THEM FOR LIBEL AND SLANDER!

IF NOT, HOW COULD THIS EVER HAVE BECOME SUCH A SPECTACLE?

I'M SURE SOME OTHER AGENCY SOMEWHERE IS SPREAD NG THE RUMORS.

"IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT DRAMA, SHE'S REALLY GOT NOTHING SPECIAL OVER ME. SHE'S REALLY RID NG THE COATTAILS OF HER GOOD LLCK."

...THAT'S WHAT NO SMALL AMOUNT OF THEM BELIEVE.

...AND ON TOP OF THAT, KAR N'S ALWAYS BEEN ENVIED BY HER PEERS.

WE'VE GOT NO PROOF.

IN ANY EVENT, SUING THEM WOLLD JUST DRAG TH S ALL OUT. ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT FOR TH S ALL TO BLOW OVER, RIGHT...?

IT'S PROBABLY THOSE SAME GIRLS WHO ARE PILING UP THE SLANDER ON THE NET AND SPREADING THE RUMORS.

GO GET SOME REST FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE IN SOME CITY A WHILE AWAY.

BUT IF IT'S YOU WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, I'M ***SURE*** YOU CAN OVER-COME THIS...

THAT'S WHAT I WAS PLANNING ON DOING EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ME TO.

I'LL MAKE A COMEBACK FROM THIS IN NO TIME, SO PLEASE TRY TO FIGURE OUT AND FIND MY NEXT JOB FOR ME.

?

AFTER THAT SHE MOVED AROUND CONTINUOUSLY FROM COUNTRY-SIDE HOTEL TO HOTEL, WHILE THE MASS MEDIA HOUNDED HER TO NO END.

TOWARDS THE END OF JANUARY, SHE CHECKED INTO A HOTEL IN MAKURAZAKA CITY.

BLOBLOG

NANASE KARIN'S OFFICIAL BLOG

AND LIKE THAT, NANASE KARIN WENT ON HOLIDAY.

(no title)

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. YA' BASTARDS.

THERE'S THE HER SHE WAS TRYING TO SELL TO THE PUBLIC, WHAT SHE WAS AFTER HERSELF, AND WHO SHE WAS ACCORDING TO UN-RELIABLE RUMORS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

...IN THE FIRST PLACE, THERE'S THE PROBLEM THAT AN IDOL'S TRUE SELF IS ALWAYS HIDDEN BEHIND A VIRTUAL FRONT.

I INTEND TO CHOOSE THE MOST HIGHLY AUTHENTIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION THAT I CAN, BUT...

SEVERAL DAYS LATER SHE UNKNOWINGLY MET HER FATE, DYING NEXT DOOR TO THE HOTEL---

CLATTER

IN THE END...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SEEKING THE TRUTH HIDDEN BENEATH ALL THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

I'M ALSO SURE THAT IF SHE TURNED INTO A VENGEFUL SPIRIT, SHE WOULDN'T FOCUS ON ANY ONE PERSON, BUT WOULD INSTEAD WANT TO ATTACK SOCIETY ITSELF.

AFTER ALL, I'M SURE EVEN NANASE KARIN PUT IN THE HARD WORK OF SELL NG HERSELF TO THE PUBL C.

...NOT A SINGLE PERSON TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR STIRRING UP THE FERVOR, OR FOR STARTING THE VAGUE SUSPICIONS THAT HER FATHER WAS MURDERED.

I DON'T FLAT OUT DENY THAT GHOSTS EXIST.

I BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF THE SOUL ENOUGH TO AT LEAST NEVER FAIL TO PAY MY GRAVE VISITING RESPECTS EVERY YEAR.

...IT'S NOT LIKE... TALK NG ABOUT THEM IS A NECESSARILY UNCOMMON... TH NG TO DO...

I DON'T REALLY THINK YOL BELIEVE N GHOSTS OR ANYTHING, BLT...

RIGHT.

HOWEVER, KOUJIN NANASE IS DIFFERENT, ISN'T SHE?

EVEN IN THIS CURRENT CASE, I CAN STILL AT LEAST BELIEVE THAT NANASE KARIN'S SPIRIT IS STUCK AT THE SCENE OF HER DEATH.

SHE, WELL, RIGHT...

...SHE FEELS LIKE SHE'S FICTIONAL.

STUFF LIKE 'WEARING A MINI-SKIRT DRESS'...

...OR HAV NG HER FACE ALL SMASHED IN, OR HOLDING A STEEL-BEAM AND WAVING IT AROLND...

THOSE ARE ALL THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT THOSE IN SOCIETY WHO CHASED NANASE KAR N TO HER DEATH...

...WOULD IRRESPONSI-BLY DELIGHT IN MAKING HER OUT TO BE.

DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE THAT A GIRL WHO SUPPOSEDLY BEARS SUCH A GRUDGE AGAINST SOCIETY THAT SHE'D TURN INTO A GHOST AND REAPPEAR WOLLD TAKE *THAT* FORM?

IN THAT CASE, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT ON THE REVERSE OF THAT, NANASE KARIN'S WILL IS SOME-THING COMPLETELY SEPARATE, AND HIDDEN?

YEAH, THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT...!

FROM A LOGICAL POINT OF VIEW, IF KOUJIN NANASE WERE TO ACT AS A VENGEFUL SPIRIT IT WOULD BE WAY TOO WEIRD FOR HER TO GO ALONG WITH THE POPULACE'S IMAGE OF HER.

.....

KOUJIN NANASE IS A TRUE GHOST.

HOWEVER, NOW THAT WE'VE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT, CONVINCING TERADA-SAN WILL; BE CLOSE TO IMPOSSIBLE...

Y...

YES, BUT...

...HEY, YUMIHARA.

BY ANY CHANCE, THAT EX-BOYFRIEND OF YOURS THAT YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT...

...DID HE DIE AND NOW SHOWS UP AS A GHOST?

AND NOW YOU HAVE TO CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE FOR TREATING HIM POORLY IN THE PAST OR SOMETHING?

I'M HIS GIRLFRIEND NOW!

HE'S JUST GOT HIMSELF A NEW GIRLFRIEND, WHO'S HAVING THE TIME OF HER LIFE.

SO EVEN IF HE DID BECOME A GHOST, I'M SURE HE WOULDN'T PAY ANY VISITS TO MY SIDE.

NO.

HE ISN'T DEAD, AND HE HASN'T BECOME A GHOST.

I...

I'M SORRY TOO, GETTING ALL EMOTIONAL LIKE THAT...

.....

GASP

SORRY... FOR SAYING SOME UN-NECESSARY STUFF.

IN THE INSTANCE OF THE KOUJIN NANASE CASE, WE SHOULD PROBABLY START THINKING OF THAT AS THE ORIGIN.

NANASE KARIN'S 'ACCIDENTAL DEATH' WAS ACTUALLY MURDER.

WELL, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT.

RIGHT. IF THAT'S ALL, THEN SEND ME AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.

...SO IF YOU WOULD PLEASE LOOK THEM OVER IN MY PLACE, COLLATE THE MAIN POINTS, AND EXPLAIN THEM TO ME, IT'D HELP.

MY ACQUAINTANCE FROM THE OTHER JURISDICTION'S GONNA BRING ME THE MATERIALS FROM THE INVESTIGATION THEY CONDUCTED AT THE TIME OF NANASE KARIN'S DEATH...

...YUMI-HARA.

たっ

I KNOW A GREAT FRIED CHICKEN PLACE.

...WOULD YOU GO WITH ME THIS TIME?

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. BY ALL MEANS, LET'S GO.

EVEN IF ITS REGARDING KOUJIN NANASE, I'D LIKE A PLACE WHERE WE CAN TALK LEISURELY.

I'VE GOT TO LET IT GO ALREADY AND BREAK FREE FROM THE PAST.

ALRIGHT THEN, PLEASE LEAVE SOME TIME OPEN THE NIGHT AFTER TOMORROW.

I MEAN, EVEN KUROU-KUN'S DATING A DIFFERENT TYPE OF GIRL.

OHHOHOHO~

BECAUSE YOU RAN AW~ AAA!~

ALTHOUGH IT CAN'T STOMACH HER...

GRRR...

インターネットカフェ
NETNET
2F ネットカフェ
まんが
SIGN: INTERNET CAFÉ NETNET
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS...?
HmmMMM...
IT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A BAD IDEA TO TRY TO STOP HATING THINGS BEFORE I TRY THEM.
13
IF SHE GOES PAST 7, I GUESS I'LL WARN HER.
AH, THE ONE IN NUMBER 13 ...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT~.
IT'S PROHIBITED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS TO STILL BE USING THE COMPUTERS PAST 7.
OI, I NEVER SAW ANY SIGN THAT THE GIRL WHO CAME N AROUND 6 EVER LEFT.
STAFF

RECIPE TO BECOMIN
A MATURE WOMAN.
Makeup For Weak Constitutions
WEB EDITION,
TAKE A SHORT MOMEN
TO LOOK AT THIS MO
GRR...!
YOUR LONG, BLACK HAIR IS S-OOO BEAUTIFUL.
COOL CODEY'S. FOR THOSE LONG-LEGGED OL'S ON THEIR DAYS OFF.
すごーい!
SUPPLEMENTS THAT CAUSE YOUR GROWTH HORMONES TO OVERFLOW.
size in just three months!!
Reach THIS
YOUR INVESTMENT PAID BACK IN SELF-CONFIDENCE!!
BUY NOW
BELL
ズ…
リ"
チ"
A SUPPLEMENT THAT CAN GROW YOU TALLER IN JUST 3 MONTHS!!!!
CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS
67
ガ"

SIGH~

AT ANY RATE, THIS TRULY IS TROUBLING.

THE ISSUE AT HAND IS KOUJIN NANASE!

NO!

THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF SOMETHING LIKE HER, WHICH POSSESSES IMMENSE ENOUGH POWER TO KILL PEOPLE. SHE SHOULD, OBVIOUSLY, HAVE SOME SET LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE.

ORDINARILY, IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO CONVERSE WITH HER EVEN IF SHE WERE A GHOST. EVEN IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE A FACE, WE COULD REACH A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

AND THEN EVEN IF NEGOTIATIONS WERE IMPOSSIBLE, SHE SHOULD BE SOMETHING I CAN PUT DOWN WITH BRUTE FORCE.

SPEAKING OF ODDITIES, SINCE TIME-IMMEMORIAL NEARLY NONE HAVE EXISTED THAT WERE BIZARRE AND POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MURDER HUMANS AS THEY PLEASED.

IF ONE ONLY NEEDS TO KNOW THE COUNTERMEASURES TO TAKE AGAINST THEM, HUMANS CAN DEFEAT THEM.

FOR WHEN THE HUMANS SET OUT IN EARNEST TO ERADICATE THEM, THERE IS BARELY ANY RECOURSE LEFT BUT FOR THEM TO HARM HUMANS, OR TO PROVE USEFUL TO THEM, ASSERTING THEIR EXISTENCE.

FOR THAT REASON, ABOVE ALL OTHER NEEDS, THESE BEINGS MUST PRIORITIZE THE FEAR OF CATCHING HUMANS' FASCINATION.

FORGET THINGS LIKE GRUDGES, IMPLACABILITY, AND EVIL THOUGHTS. SHE CAN'T PROJECT THOSE WITHOUT EVEN THE POWER TO DEVELOP HER OWN INNER SELF.

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A GHOST, I CAN'T FEEL ANY PURPOSE, OR EVEN ABILITY TO THINK COMING FROM HER. SHE DOESN'T EVEN RESPOND TO ANYONE'S VOICE.

KOUJIN NANASE DEVIATES TOO WILDLY FROM THOSE RULES.

IT'S LIKE SHE'S A HOLLOW MARIONETTE.

SHE'S BECOME AN OUT OF PLACE ENOUGH EXISTENCE FOR THE MONSTERS LIVING HERE IN MAKURAZAKA TO HATE EVEN GETTING NEAR HER.

TO THAT END I'D REALLY LIKE SOME ACCURATE INFORMATION, BUT...

...IN CASE IT *IS* IMPOSSIBLE, I'D BETTER MAKE PREPARATIONS.

I'VE GOT TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT I REALLY CAN'T TAKE HER DOWN WITH BRUTE FORCE, BUT...

BELL

IF ONE WERE TO USE ALL THE TESTIMONIES OF THOSE WHO'VE SEEN HER, AND REFERENCE NANASE KARIN'S APPEARANCE WHILE SHE WAS STILL ALIVE, I'M SURE ONE COULD DRAW A FAIR APPROXIMATION, BUT...

...WOULD IT REALLY BE POSSIBLE TO DRAW SUCH A PERFECT LIKENESS?

THIS ILLUSTRATION HERE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE KOUJIN NANASE I SAW YESTERDAY.

THE LENGTH OF THE STEEL BEAM, THE ANGLE OF HER RIBBON, THE WAY I CAN SEE HER THIGHS...

WITH THESE DETAILS NAILED DOWN, I GOT THE IMPRESSION THERE SHOULD BE *SOME* SCATTERED ABOUT.

THERE ISN'T ANY TALK OF PHOTOS OR OTHER IMAGES OF KOUJIN NANASE BEING TAKEN OR SPREAD AROUND.

BUT IT'S AS IF *THIS* ILLUSTRATION WAS DRAWN BY SITTING DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM KOUJIN NANASE AND LOOKING RIGHT AT HER...

GASP

THAT'S NOT IT!

ACTUAL-LY, IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE!

鋼人七瀬まとめサイト

THINGS POSTED ON THE NET HAVE TRUTH AND FALSEHOODS JUMBLED INEXTRICABLY TOGETHER.

WHAT I WANT ARE ACCURATE MATERIALS FROM A SOURCE I CAN TRUST REGARDING THE INCIDENT THAT TOOK NANASE KARIN'S LIFE.

AND IF *THAT'S* THE CASE, THEN DEFEATING KOUJIN NASASE'S JUST BECOME EXTREMELY BOTHERSOME.

THE THING I NEED TO START WITH IS MORE DATA.

.....

TEXT: KOUJIN NANASE GATHERING SITE

THE THOUGHT OF ASKING SAKI-SAN FOR A FAVOR S~URE IS OFFENSIVE ...

I EVEN GOT THAT GREAT LAST WORD IN...

WH CH IN TURN, MEANS THE POLICE...

BELL

EVEN THOUGH ONLY ONE DETECTIVE'S REALIZED SOMETHING ABNORMAL'S GOING ON IN THE CITY, HE'S ALREADY STARTED LOOKING INTO IT.

BUT...

IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT FOR SAKI-SAN TO OBTAIN THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS FROM THAT CASE...

AND BEING CLOSER TO THE SOURCE OF THAT THAN EVER BEFORE, I'M ANXIOUS THAT HE'LL GROW WEAKER, OR EVEN SICK...

EVEN THOUGH TWO AND A HALF YEARS HAVE ALREADY PASSED, IT'S NEVER LOOKED LIKE KUROU-SENPAI SORTED OUT HIS ISSUES WITH HIS PAST.

AFTER ALL, WHERE SAKI-SAN'S CONCERNED ...

I'VE GOT TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE KUROU-SENPAI REUNITES WITH THE CURRENT SAKI-SAN.

SHE'S GROWN ALL THE MORE INTO KUROU-SENPAI'S TYPE OF WOMAN TOO...!

IT'S A GRAVE SITUATION.

AND IT WOULD HAVE TO HAPPEN DURING THIS CURRENT MATTER WHEN I NEED KUROU-SENPAI'S ABILITY.

IF SAKI-SAN DOES GET CLOSE TO HIM AGAIN, I'M AFRAID THAT SOME UNSEEN RHYTHM WILL BIND THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER...

I'D BETTER PLAY WHATEVER HANDS I HAVE BEFORE ANY MORE VICTIMS SHOW UP.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, I CAN'T RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM WITHOUT SOME SMALL SACRIFICE.

YOU GOT KUROU

SENP~ AAAIII!

SENP~AAAAI!

EXCELLENT WORK!

HERE YOU ARE.

YOU GOT MATERIALS

I'M SURE THAT KUROU-SENPAI WILL RETURN TO NORMAL CONTACT AND THEN COME RIGHT ALONG AFTER I GET THE INFO FROM HER.

ONCE I RECEIVE THOSE MATERIALS FROM SAKI-SAN, SHE'LL HAVE SERVED HER PURPOSE, SO I CAN CALL SENPAI OUT WITHOUT THE TWO OF THEM EVER COMING INTO CONTACT.

13

14

YES, THIS SHOULD GO QUITE WELL.

トントン

YOU PASS ON THIS MESSAGE TO SAKI-SAN FROM ME.

AND IF *YOU* OR ANY OF THE OTHER YOUKAI IN THE CITY HAPPEN TO CATCH SIGHT OF KOUJIN NANASE, COME NOTIFY ME AT ONCE. GO SPREAD THE WORD.

THE ONLY THING I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS THAT KUROU-SENPAI MIGHT MAKE HIS WAY HERE TO MAKURAZAKA EVEN IF I DON'T CALL HIM.

THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO WHERE SENPAI AND SAKI-SAN RUN INTO EACH OTHER BY COINCIDENCE SOMEWHERE WITHOUT ME KNOWING.

THAT'S THE ONE THING I MUST PREVENT!

IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT WERE TO HAPPEN...

K...

KUROU-KUN?!

SAKI-SAN!

I LOVE YOU!!

LET'S JUST FORGET THAT WHOLE THING WITH THE KAPPA!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU, BUT YOU DEFINITELY RESEMBLE A GOAT AFTER ALL!

M~ AAAAAH HH~~♡!

AS IF I'D...

...EVER LET...

WHAT THE HELL

DO YOU MEAN BY "MAAAA

...SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEEEEEEEN!!!

JR 直倉坂駅

79

...THAT VOICE JUST NOW...

...I WONDER...

...IF IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION ...?

THE MAN WHO MIGHT BE THE ONLY TRUMP CARD THAT THEY HAVE TO DEFEAT KOUJIN NANASE, POSITIONED AT THE SUMMIT OF THEIR LOVE TRIANGLE, SAKURAGAWA KUROU (HAS ALREADY)

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YES, WE DO NEED HELP TO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

TRANSLATORS (URGENTLY)

We are in dire need of translators to resume "TOMODACHI GAME" and pick up/resume other series of interest published in "Weekly Shonen Magazine", "Monthly Shonen Magazine" and "Young Magazine The 3rd". We would also welcome, more than gladly, translators willing to help with our current projects.

REDRAWERS (HIGH-PRIORITY)

We are also in dire need of **experienced** redrawers to speed up the frequency of release of the many series we work on, in particular, REAL ACCOUNT.

IF YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING US A HAND PLEASE PAY US A VISIT AT CAFECONIRST.COM OR CONTACT US DIRECLTY AT CAFECONLENIN@GMAIL.COM